

### **Why is the Magnolia Bridge being replaced?**

The Seattle Department of Transportation commissioned a Type, Size, and Location study after the 3,000-foot Magnolia Bridge sustained damage in the 1997 landslide and the Nisqually earthquake of 2001. Although the bridge was repaired and is now safe for motorists to use, it would be at risk if another seismic event were to occur. The cost of seismic upgrade and bringing the bridge up to current code approaches the cost of replacing the bridge with a new facility.

### **Which alternatives are being considered?**

The design team has identified three Magnolia Bridge alignments that will undergo further study. The process to identify the best Magnolia Bridge replacement alternatives began in October 2002. After two rounds of technical review and an extensive public involvement process, the team selected Alternatives A, D, and H for further study in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A No Build alternative will also be considered.

- ◆ **Alternative A** replaces the bridge with a similar facility just south of the existing bridge.
- ◆ **Alternative D** maintains the same endpoints as currently exist for the Magnolia Bridge, but arcs the alignment to the north.
- ◆ **Alternative H** provides two access points, one near the existing bridge, the other a northern route at Wheeler Street.

### **How is this project being funded?**

Senator Patty Murray secured a \$9 million grant to evaluate possible replacement alternatives, select a preferred alternative, and complete final design work. The City of Seattle will seek construction funding after the EIS and Type, Size, and Location Study are completed and approved.

### **How will the City select an alternative?**

All three Magnolia Bridge Project alternatives will be evaluated in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City will document results of the evaluation in a Draft EIS that will study project impacts. If the City identifies potentially significant impacts for any of the alternatives, proposals will be made to reduce or eliminate the impacts. A public comment period will allow the public to comment on the Draft EIS. The Seattle City Council will select the final alternative after the Final EIS is released.

## **How long will the project take?**

The Type, Size, and Location Study will be completed after finalizing the project EIS. A Draft EIS will be released in Fall 2004. A final decision is expected the following year, in the fall of 2005. The City will then complete final design work, complete required permitting, and secure construction funding. Under the best-case scenario, construction could begin by about 2008. When construction on the new bridge is complete, the old bridge will be removed.

### **To Learn More about the Magnolia Bridge Project**

**Contact the project manager:** Call or email the City of Seattle's project manager, Kirk T. Jones, at (206) 615-0862 or at [kirkt.jones@seattle.gov](mailto:kirkt.jones@seattle.gov).

**Log on to the project website:** Read about project progress and updates at:

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/magbridgereplace.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/magbridgereplace.htm)

On the project website you can also review maps of the alternatives, learn about upcoming project events, sign up for the project mailing list, and submit comments electronically.